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Prevention of armed conflict**

**Security Council
Sixty-ninth year**

**Letter dated 3 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform presented at the open meeting held in New York on 17 June 2014 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33 (a), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Igor Vencel
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 3 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Open meeting of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform:
implementation of Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) —
Security sector reform and the maintenance of international peace
and security**

Draft statement of the Co-Chairs

The Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform gathered on 17 June 2014 for a meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Frantisek Ružička, and the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo (represented by Mlungisi Cedrick Mbalati).

Speakers at the event included the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, U. Joy Ogwu; the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Karel J. G. van Oosterom; the Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov; the Deputy Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme, Stan Nkwain; and the focal point on security sector reform within the Economic Community of West African States, Isaac Armstrong. Security sector reform chiefs and advisers from United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions also participated in the meeting.

The Secretary-General's call in his second report on security sector reform for the Group to "continue to be engaged and to facilitate strategic discussions on strengthening the United Nations approach in this critical area" (A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (m)) was recognized. Members of the Group reiterated their commitment to the development of a comprehensive and holistic United Nations approach to security sector reform.

Attention was drawn to and support was expressed for the following positions recently set out in Security Council resolution 2151 (2014):

First, security sector reform is "a key element of peacekeeping and special political mission mandates". An effective and accountable security sector is "the cornerstone of peace and sustainable development".

Second, security sector reform "should be a nationally owned process that is rooted in the particular needs and conditions of the country in question", and it is important to consider "the perspectives of the host countries in the formulation of relevant mandates".

Third, "security sector reform constitutes a key element of the political processes of States recovering from conflict and of the strengthening of the rule of law institutions".

Fourth, in addition to reform of the individual components of the security sector, it is important to strengthen "support for sector-wide initiatives that aim to

enhance the governance and overall performance of the security sector and address the foundations upon which security institutions in each component area are built”.

Fifth, the Secretary-General should “encourage the Secretary-General’s Special Representatives and Envoys to fully take into account the strategic value of security sector reform in their work, including through their good offices”.

During the meeting, the members of the Group also voiced their support for calls to strengthen United Nations capacity to support national security sector reform efforts, both in the field and at United Nations Headquarters, as outlined in Security Council resolution 2151 (2014), reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (A/64/19, A/65/19, A/68/19) and the second report of the Secretary-General on security sector reform (A/67/970-S/2013/480).

In accordance with resolution 2151 (2014), members of the Group of Friends reiterated the need to:

- Make it a priority to “assist relevant senior United Nations management to understand how to deliver mandated security sector reform tasks”, while also including all staff involved in supporting national security sector reform efforts
- “Encourage the Secretary-General’s Special Representatives and Envoys to fully take into account the strategic value of security sector reform in their work, including through their good offices, where mandated”, and identify metrics within their compacts to hold them accountable in this respect
- Urge “integration as regards sector-wide and component levels of UN support both at headquarters and in the field”: and in this respect, reiterate to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General the potential for integrating SSR components in the field, specifically by ensuring the development of integrated security sector analyses, security sector support plans (including training, equipment and governance-related dimensions) and mission-wide assessments
- Strengthen “support for sector-wide initiatives that aim to enhance the governance and overall performance of the security sector and address the foundations upon which security institutions in each component area are built”
- Enhance as part of overall security sector reform the delivery of peacekeeping operations in the areas of national security sector governance, police sector reform, defence sector reform and border management and security reform, as well as enhance support to the reform of police services and defence forces, and expand assistance to institutions responsible for their oversight and management
- “Work closely with regional and subregional organizations to support the development of security sector reform frameworks” and deepen and expand thematic and regional partnerships, particularly in new practice areas, such as “security sector public financial management” (see A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (l) and (h))
- “Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of United Nations security sector reform initiatives”, particularly in the contexts of mission transition and reporting on Security Council benchmarks

- “Provide financial and technical resources to enable the deployment of expertise” (see A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (n)) from the United Nations roster of security sector reform experts, thereby enhancing the Organization’s capacity to rapidly deploy security sector reform expertise
- Enhance the capacities of the Inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to enable them to meet their operational mandate, particularly with respect to enhanced delivery of field support, and to play their mandated role in promoting an effective, coherent and well-coordinated approach in this crucial area (see A/67/970-S/2013/480, para. 61 (o)).

The way forward

The Security Council’s call for Member States to “provide voluntary support to security sector reform efforts, including at a sector-wide level, in accordance with the priorities set forth by national authorities” (resolution 2151 (2014)) was reiterated. It was noted that despite the remarkable progress, key security sector reform mechanisms — particularly the Inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and the Security Sector Reform Unit — do not have a direct resource allocation and have an inadequate resource allocation, respectively. Therefore, it is crucial to make efforts to better explore the use of existing resources as well as the allocation of additional resources, such as assessed budgets.

(Signed) Frantisek **Ružička**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic

(Signed) Kingsley **Mamabolo**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the
Republic of South Africa

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Security Council**Distr.: General
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

**Identical letters dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the
President of the Security Council**

The escalation of deadly violence and terror being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people compels me to write to you again today to urgently draw the attention of the international community to this dangerous situation. In grave violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant human rights provisions, for over three weeks, the occupying Power has been carrying out a series of military assaults, including air strikes, against civilians and civilian areas that have led to the killing of at least 25 Palestinians, including three children, and the wounding of at least 250 civilians, including women and children, many who remain in serious condition. The extremely fragile situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, is rapidly worsening and risks further destabilization as a result of this Israeli aggression and the incessant illegal actions being perpetrated against the Palestinian civilian population, including the unrelenting incitement by Israeli government officials as well as violence and terror by the occupying forces, settlers and other extremists.

The Palestinian death toll continues to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to traumatize and terrorize the more than 1.7 million Palestinians living in the besieged Gaza Strip. Since 12 June 2014, the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip have had to endure nearly nightly military air raids. Between yesterday and today, Israeli occupying forces killed nine Palestinians and injured many others, including two teenage girls and a child, in airstrikes launched across the Gaza Strip. The continuous climb in the number of casualties is reflective of Israel's ongoing bloody onslaught against the Palestinian population in the Occupied Gaza Strip, in complete disregard and violation of all norms and rules of international humanitarian and human rights law.

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Moreover, in our letter dated 2 July 2014, we referred to the intensifying acts of terror and racist hate crimes being perpetrated by illegal Israeli settlers as well as other Israeli extremists against Palestinian civilians, including children. In this regard, we must reiterate our condemnation in the strongest terms of the kidnapping, torture and burning of Mohammed Abu Khdeir by terrorist Israeli settlers. Since then, more information has become available regarding the cruel murder of young Mohammed, including post-mortem findings of soot deposits in his lungs that prove Mohammed was still alive when he was set on fire. The examination also found that burns covered 90 per cent of his small body. The Palestinian leadership holds the Israeli government responsible for this atrocious crime and the culture of impunity in which Israeli settler terrorists have so vilely and continuously assaulted Palestinian civilians and properties over the years. The Palestinian leadership calls for a speedy, independent, transparent and credible investigation into the murder of Mohammed and calls for the perpetrators of this terrorist crime to be held fully accountable and brought to justice.

In this connection, we must also bring to your attention the brutal beating by Israeli occupying forces of Palestinian-American Tariq Abu Khdeir (age 15), a cousin of Mohammed, on 2 July 2014. Tariq was outside his murdered cousin's home in the neighbourhood of Shufaat, in Occupied East Jerusalem, when he was taken by the occupying forces, the so-called "Israeli border police". Two videos of the horrific incident were posted online and show the Israeli forces repeatedly hitting Tariq, who was cuffed and lying on the floor. In the video, one of the so-called border police was shown kicking and punching Tariq in the face and the head while another sat on top of him. Tariq was then dragged away completely unconscious. A seriously injured Tariq was denied medical care for five hours and held without charge until yesterday, and then was placed under house arrest. This type of excessive, indiscriminate and brutal force has become the norm of the occupying Power, as hundreds of innocent Palestinians have met the same fate as Tariq, the only difference being that the vicious beating of Tariq was captured on camera for the entire world to witness the brutality of the occupying Power. We call also for a transparent, credible investigation into the beating of Tariq and call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

At the same time, indiscriminate force continues to be unleashed by the occupying forces against Palestinian civilian protesters throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and has intensified in the period following the burial of Mohammed Abu Kdheir. In this regard, more than 60 Palestinians were injured during protests in Occupied East Jerusalem, in addition to 200 other Palestinians who were injured in other parts of the Occupied State of Palestine, including in and around the refugee camps in Al-Khalil. In this regard, Israeli occupying forces routinely fire tear gas, stun grenades, rubber-coated metal bullets and live ammunition at the protestors, causing dozens of injuries, many critical.

Moreover, extremist settlers, who have received encouragement from Israeli political figures and government officials, continue their escalation of attacks and their campaign of terror, violence and provocation against the Palestinian civilian population. Following the kidnapping and the burning alive of Mohammed, Israeli settlers continue to run rampant throughout Palestine with the tacit support of the Israeli government, whose armed forces guard these settler militias as they commit their crimes against defenceless Palestinian civilians, with over 130 attacks by settlers recorded in just the past 10 days.

In this connection, on 5 July 2014, 22-year-old Tariq Ziad Zuhdi Adeli was abducted by settlers near Nablus in the northern West Bank. The terrorist settlers drove Tariq to a remote area, attacked him with a hatchet and left him bleeding and severely injured. On that same day, Israeli settlers attacked the car of a Christian Palestinian cleric with rocks and iron bars near Ramallah, and more than 50 terrorist settlers also rampaged through Sheikh Jarrah in Occupied East Jerusalem, assaulting Palestinians and vandalizing homes.

At the same time, since 12 June, Israeli occupying forces have conducted 800 violent military raids on Palestinian homes, villages, towns and cities across the West Bank, arresting and detaining hundreds of Palestinians. At least 850 Palestinians have been arrested since 12 June, including 60 prisoners released in the exchange deal of 2011 and 12 members of the Palestinian Parliament, bringing the number of imprisoned Palestinian parliamentarians to 22. Around 170 of the Palestinians who were arrested during this period are now being held under administrative detention, the worst form of arbitrary detention, bringing the number of Palestinians being held under administrative detention to over 350 out of a total of nearly 6,000 Palestinians being held in Israeli jails and detention centres. We call for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

As more innocent Palestinians, including children and women, continue to be killed with no end in sight, as Israel continues its military attacks and measures of collective punishment and its terrorist settlers continue to commit atrocities against the Palestinian civilian population, the international community must do all in its power to compel Israel to immediately cease all of its military aggression and scrupulously abide by all of its obligations as the occupying Power, under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. In this regard, we continue to call upon the international community to ensure immediate protection for the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and in recognition of the fact that Israel, the occupying Power, has abdicated this responsibility. Specifically, we call upon the Security Council to fulfil its duties in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and take concrete measures to end Israeli aggression against our people. The international community cannot allow the occupying Power or its illegal settlers to continue to act with such flagrant impunity and disrespect for the law, which has resulted in widespread death, injury and suffering among the defenceless Palestinian civilian population, and which if not stopped will surely lead to much more senseless bloodshed.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 502 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 July 2014 (A/ES-10/635-S/2014/471) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyadh **Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations
